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Letter to

His Honour the Lieut.-Governor

Nova Scotia and the Empire

WITH OTHER PAPERS

HALIFAX, AUGUST 19TH, 1908.

McALPINE PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED.

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HALIFAX, *August 14th, 1908.*

The Honourable D. C. Fraser,

Lieutenant-Governor, Nova Scotia:

Your Honour,—I ask permission to address you on the subject of my letter of July 1st, addressed to the committee appointed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of representative government in Nova Scotia, of which committee you are honorary chairman.

I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the committee on the 10th instant. The committee was deeply engaged in considering details respecting the placing of a brass memorial plate on the walls of the Province Building, and other matters.

At the close of the meeting I was kindly given an opportunity of briefly submitting the views I hold in common with many others, on the extremely important event in national life which we all desire to commemorate. I was informed, however, that the committee is at present charged with a specific duty, and for the sole purpose of preparing and placing a brass tablet on the walls of the Province Building. I received the assurance, however, that individually the members of the committee were in sympathy with the views expressed by me, and would willingly assist in promoting them on the completion of their duties connected with the brass tablet on Wednesday next, August 19th.

One cannot help feeling that the placing of a tablet on the walls of the Province Building is commendable in every respect, and as the anniversary to be celebrated does not arrive until October 2nd, there will be ample time to determine what else should be done to commemorate in an adequate and fitting manner, the vastly important epoch in the life of Nova Scotia and in the life of the Empire.

Bearing on the subject, I trust Your Honour will allow me to submit some explanations, which for convenience I shall divide into three parts, under the following headings:

I. Nova Scotia and the Empire.

II. A proposed Historical Tower.

III. A North West Arm Park.

It will be my purpose to bring forward the grounds for Nova Scotia taking the pioneer place historically in our federal system, and for regarding Halifax as the constitutional birthplace of the British Empire. I shall point out that such an event as that when Nova Scotia became the seat of representative government, one hundred and fifty years ago, should be commemorated in a manner befitting its supreme importance.

With respect to what I shall submit under part II, a proposed Historical Tower, I wish it to be understood that I do not press my individual views; I merely offer suggestions and leave the duty of determining what is best to those duly authorized to make the selection. I shall be well satisfied if a worthy expression of the event be chosen, one of educational value to present and future generations. I may be pardoned, however, for pointing out that, as the

opportunity for marking the great epoch in our national life does not frequently return. Not oftener, it may be said, than once in fifty years—an obvious present duty is laid upon us.

In part III it will be my purpose to refer to a proposed park on the North West Arm, as the matter has of late been before the public. I have little to add to the definite offer which I made in my letter to Your Honour of June 8th (see appendix), beyond saying that if I see proper occasion—i. e., if it be desired—I may enlarge the contribution of land to one hundred acres.

In my letter of July 1st, appended, I pointed out the fact that there are a large number of natives of Nova Scotia now non-resident, and that with them there are others interested in the Province, who, with awakened sympathies, take a wide outlook and would regard it as a privilege to be associated with this movement. I ventured to express the opinion that among such friends there are those who would be glad to have an opportunity of subscribing towards the erection of a worthy memorial. That opinion is confirmed by further information, and I am now perfectly satisfied that one-third, or more than one-third if desired, of the whole amount required might readily and willingly be obtained from non-resident sources.

Among the letters recently received, I have the satisfaction to enclose a copy of a note from the distinguished professor of history in Toronto University. Although that gentleman's interests are largely centered in Toronto, allow me to direct attention to the concluding sentence, which reads: "I, with, I "am sure, many other citizens of the Province of

"Ontario, will be glad to contribute to so excellent "a plan for marking an epoch in our national life."

I have more recently received another letter from Toronto University, which, in the interests of my fellow citizens, I would like to make public. The latter communication is from the President of the University, who, as we all know, is a staunch and able Nova Scotian.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING.

I.

NOVA SCOTIA AND THE EMPIRE.

The recent Tercentenary celebration at Quebec, with its exceedingly interesting pageants, has carried our minds back to the time of Champlain, and the first settlements on the shores of the St. Lawrence from 1608 to 1759. It is well that we should have the historical associations of those early days revived, and be impressed with the events portrayed with such excellent unity of spirit, sympathetic good taste, and genuine patriotism, that all Canadians of whatever origin should now feel a new pride in the history of French Canada as a most important part of the early history of their own land.

At a most notable gathering held at Oxford University scarcely a month since, it was pointed out by the distinguished speakers that a century and a half ago was perhaps the most glorious period in British history. At that period were being laid far and wide the foundations of an ideal world empire. Men worthy of the great races from which they had sprung became prominent agents in welding into a united political organization many sea-separated lands. While men great in military skill, such as Clive, and Wolfe, and Montcalm, and others, had each their place in the evolution of history, one of the prime movers, in the hands of a higher Power, was William Pitt, "the great commoner."

That remarkable man had great wisdom, great foresight, and great designs. For a time he directly guided the destinies of England and influenced the future of many people geographically remote from England. The records of history bring out clearly what followed the adoption of his policy, and in that policy Nova Scotia appears prominently as a pioneer. One of the first steps to render a great empire pos-

sible—one of the essentials to its permanency—was to extend to the people free civil government.

In the march of human progress, the fall of Quebec was, in the mind of Pitt, absolutely necessary, and it is impossible to avoid associationg the conflict on the Plains of Abraham in September, 1759, with that statesman who directed the steps of Wolfe to the great Canadian citadel. A considerable time, however, before Quebec became British, even before the fall of Louisburg, steps had been taken to establish parliamentary government in Nova Scotia. The British prime minister was imbued with the most lofty patriotism, and his penetration led him to see the supreme value of constitutional government and a free people. Whatever objections were therefore raised at home or abroad to the policy laid down, they were at once overruled by the master mind in London.

As previously arranged, elections were held among the settlers in Nova Scotia in the summer of 1758, and nineteen (19) of twenty-two (22) elected representatives met in Halifax in General Assembly, for the first time on October 2nd of that year.

In the development of history it occasionally turns out that a matter which at the time may be regarded of no great moment will, in the course of years prove to be of imperishable importance. The meeting of an assembly of nineteen (19) representative Nova Scotians in 1758 has so proved. Similar general assemblies have met in the same locality each year for a century and a half, and as will be seen from the statement which follows, the same policy has been adopted wherever applicable throughout the Empire, in both hemispheres.

Elective Legislatures and the Date of the First Assembly in Each Case.

	Date.		Members.
Nova Scotia	on Oct. 2, 1758	at Halifax	19
New Brunswick	Jan. 3, 1786	" St. John	13
Upper Canada	Sep. 18, 1792	" Niagara	16
Lower Canada	Dec. 17, 1792	" Quebec	50
Newfoundland	Jan. 1, 1833	" St. John's	15
Up. and Lr. Canada	Apl. 18, 1841	" Kingston	
" " "	Nov. 2, 1844	" Montreal	
" " "	May 14, 1850	" Toronto	
" " "	Aug. 29, 1852	" Quebec	
New Zealand	May 27, 1854	" Auckland	
N. S. Wales	1855	" Sydney	
Victoria	1855	" Melbourne	
Tasmania	1855	" Hobart	
South Australia	1856	" Adelaide	
Queensland	1859	" Brisbane	
Prov. of Quebec	Sep. 24, 1867	" Quebec	65
Dominion of Canada	Nov. 6, 1867	" Ottawa	
Prov. of Ontario	Dec. 27, 1867	" Toronto	81
" Nova Scotia	Jan. 30, 1868	" Halifax	38
" N. Brunswick	Feb. 13, 1868	" Fred'cton	40
" Manitoba	Mar. 15, 1871	" Winnipeg	28
" B. Columbia	Feb. 16, 1872	" Victoria	25
" P. E. Island	Mar. 5, 1874	" Charlottwn	31
West Australia	1890	" Perth	
Com'nw'lth Australia	May 9, 1901	" Melbourne	
Prov. of Alberta	Mar. 15, 1906	" Regina	
" Saskatchewan	Mar. 29, 1906	" Edmonton	

South Africa:
- Natal.
- Cape Colony.
- Orange River.
- Transvaal.

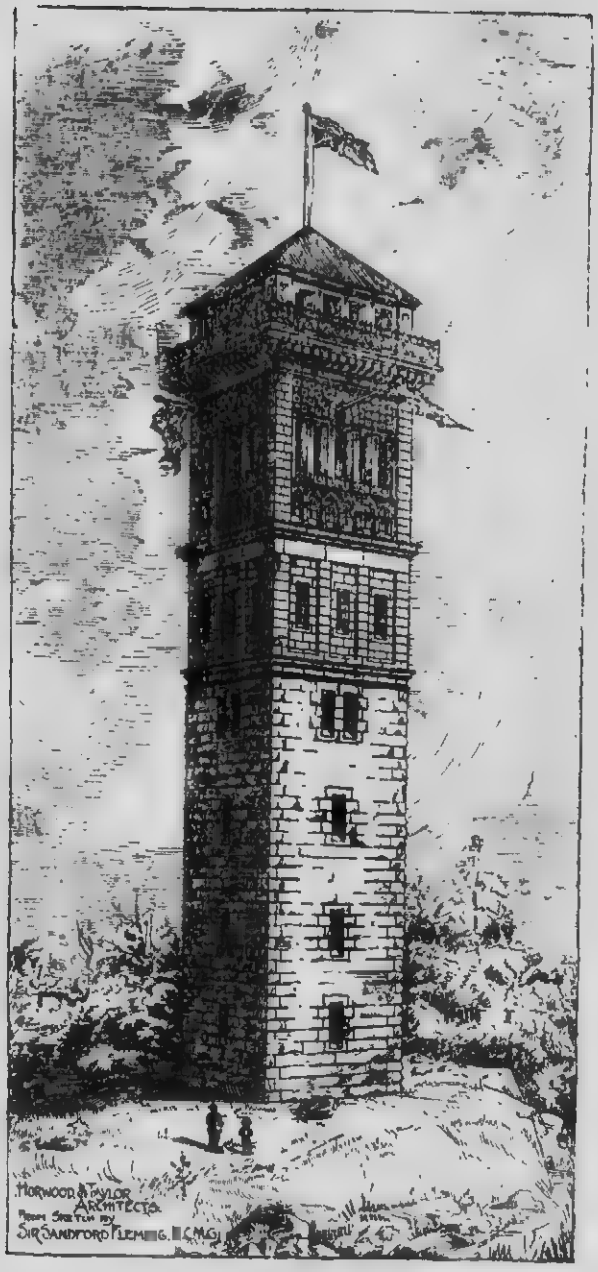
The list makes no mention of the West Indies, where representative government was introduced at

an early date. The system of government of Jamaica was changed in 1866 and replaced by a legislative council appointed by the Crown. In 1884 the council was again changed and made partly elective.

The foregoing will make plain that Nova Scotia stands at the head of the long list of self-governing countries within the present British Empire, with free constitutions established by authority of the British parliament. Nova Scotia takes her place as the elder sister in the British Constitutional family, and the pioneer meeting of her Assembly was held at Halifax on October 2nd, 1758. At that date the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and much more territory stretching athwart the continent, were under the military rule of the King of France. British Columbia did not become a British colony for a hundred years later. Australia and New Zealand were unsettled and unclaimed. The Cape of Good Hope did not become British until nalf a century later; it was formally ceded to the British Crown in 1814.

It is impossible to regard the occurrence in 1758, to which special attention is directed, as merely an incident in history. We must regard it in association with a great policy—a policy which has increased the power and broadened the influence of the British people. We must judge it by results, and we find results in every country over which floats that flag which is the emblem of liberty, of justice, of peace, and of patriotism; that flag which for so many generations has given us freedom to flourish in the highest degree.

The foregoing statement of facts goes far to show that while historic Quebec has undoubted claims to be regarded as the birthplace of Canada, Nova Scotia has equal claims to be regarded as the cradle and Halifax as the constitutional birthplace of the Empire.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II.

A PROPOSED HISTORICAL TOWER.

It has been customary in all ages and by all great races worthy of the name, to celebrate great events and great achievements in their history. We are on the eve of a great and ever memorable anniversary. How can we most worthily commemorate it and proclaim to the world our high sense of gratitude, that we and our forbears have for so many generations enjoyed all the blessings of the fostering and protecting British constitution?

History teaches us lessons. In the early centuries the nations of Western Europe were benefited and enriched by imitating the Romans in many things. If we allow ourselves to be influenced by Ruskin, on this side of the Atlantic, we may with advantage do likewise and imitate the Romans by determining to erect an architectural edifice modelled after St. Mark's at Venice, or some other Italian tower. In order properly to commemorate the great anniversary which is about to fall due, why should we not symbolize in stone, the history of Nova Scotia since it became the seat of representative government?

The plate is intended to suggest such a historical tower. The edifice is designed to be of noble proportions, and the first course of masonry laid on the bed rock of native Nova Scotia granite would typify the beginning of representative government in the year 1758, associated, as has been shown, so closely with the foundation of the Empire. Each course of massive masonry upwards would have its meaning, and would be adorned by references to the names and deeds of distinguished men who have served their country.

The historical purpose of the building should always be held in view. It was many years before

representative government developed into responsible government; not indeed until about 1840. Accordingly for a space above the foundation of over eighty years, the tower would be characterized by massive simplicity of outline. Again in 1876 Nova Scotia federated with the other provinces to form the Canadian Dominion, and from the natal day (July 1st) in that year onwards, the pioneer province by the sea has done its full share in promoting the general progress. It should be the aim of the design to denote all such matters in the architectural features of the tower, so that it would strike the beholder as, even in external appearance, appropriately fulfilling the purpose of its erection. The structure itself should be able to tell its tale to the spectator in after years, when present actors may be forgotten. It should practically and unmistakably proclaim the spirit of these words: "This is a birthday tower, erected by a grateful people to inform the world that a new nation was born, and with its birth the old mother became larger, nobler, more perfect than before."

As to the internal arrangement of the tower and some other matters, the writer would refer to a letter addressed to the secretary of the 150th anniversary celebration committee. (See Appendix.)

III.

A NORTH WEST ARM PARK.

Every citizen and every visitor to the capital of Nova Scotia is familiar with the position and charms of that sheltered inlet of the Atlantic Ocean known as the North West Arm. "The Arm," as generally termed, is about three miles in length, situated in the immediate rear of the city, and as indicated on the map its greater portion is but little more than a mile and a half distant in an air line from the City Hall. For the most part, the Arm is within easy reach of all the residential sections of the city. The water is of the purest description, being renewed twice daily from the Atlantic by tidal influence. There are no mud banks or reefs or shoals. The surface is generally unruffled, as it is sheltered from every quarter by foliage-clad, lofty banks; in consequence the Arm is unsurpassed in many respects for boating and canoeing, while it is navigable at all conditions of tide for vessels of any draft.

Midway between Point Pleasant at the entrance, and the head of the Arm, an elevated promontory from the western shore contracts the waterway and forms "the narrows," where it is only 600 feet wide from shore to shore. At this point the Arm is divided into two lake-like expanses of great beauty, and it is on the elevated promontory mentioned that it has been suggested to erect a historical tower such as that referred to under the preceding heading. Regarded as a whole there are few localities more attractive. The Mayor of Halifax, than whom there can be no better authority, in an official communication (April 11th, 1908) respecting the portion of land desired for Park purposes, employs these words: "The North "West Arm has of recent years become probably the "chief pleasure resort of our citizens, and it is emin-"ently desirable that a portion of its shores should be

" kept open to the use of the public, and for that pur-
" pose no portion is so well adapted as that proposed
" to be dedicated."

A memorial tower, placed as suggested, would be seen from a long distance on every side, even from far out on the Atlantic. It would be conspicuous throughout the Arm. It would be in the midst of associations made memorable as the homes or haunts of the Howes, Hills, Thompsons, Cunards, Haliburtons, Tuppers, Jones', Stairs', Morrows, Kennys, Pryors, Ritchies, Duffus' and other sons of Nova Scotia, and thus in a neighbourhood of old memories and on ground already historic.

In a few years great changes would be effected. Biological and other museums and buildings would probably be grouped around the tower for educational purposes. Like the suburban parks of Ottawa, Toronto and elsewhere, the North West Arm Park would be brought by electric railway within easy reach, and no health resort on the continent would be found more attractive.

A difficulty is presented in proceeding with the narrative on account of its personal aspect, but some few explanations appear desirable and necessary. Attracted, forty years ago, by the natural beauty of the North West Arm and its possibilities, the writer became owner by purchase of a considerable area of land stretching from opposite Oaklands, the home of the Cunard family, to the property of the War Department adjacent to Melville Island. Measured on the chart the whole water frontage extends over not far short of a mile of the further shore of the North West Arm. The most costly portion of the whole was that near the narrows, which was originally held by Mr. Cunard and several other persons. It was, however, desirable to bring all into one block, as it now is, embracing Dingle Lake, Daisy Cove and the Narrows. From year to year considerable expenditure was made, in removing unsightly obstacles, building roads, laying water pipes for the purpose of

a water supply, wharf building, and other improvements.

A few years ago, the president of the Board of Trade, more recently the Mayor, made overtures on behalf of the city to the writer with the view of securing a portion of the property in part described, for a Public Park. Last year these overtures were renewed, but nothing was definitely settled.

Correspondence was opened by the Mayor in a letter dated April 8th, 1908, inviting the writer to state the terms and conditions upon which he would dedicate the southern portion of his property for the use of the public. On April 11th, replies by telegraph and letter were sent, simply expressing general concurrence in the proposal. On April 22nd, His Worship the Mayor again wrote, explaining that as he was going out of office he deemed it expedient in the interests of the public to act with expedition, and that he had taken means to obtain legislative sanction to the proposal. On May 4th, the writer addressed the Mayor, expressing his wish and intention soon to visit Halifax in order to confer with the authorities on a matter of high importance, alluding to the semi-tercentenary of the establishment of popular government, and the desirability of devising some way of properly commemorating a historical fact in which the whole of Canada is so much interested, and in which Halifax was directly associated a hundred and fifty years ago.

The writer visited Halifax on June 19th, and left on June 29th. Immediately on his return to Ottawa he addressed a letter dated July 1st to the 150th Anniversary Committee, J. A. Chisholm, Esq., K. C., secretary (copy appended). This letter sets forth in considerable detail the whole proceedings up to the date thereof. The concluding pages refer to a North West Arm Park, and they go to show that the offer made respecting that matter remains open. They also point out that the present year should not be allowed to pass without decisive action being taken.

APPENDIX

University of Toronto, Aug. 5, 1908,

Pointe au Pic, Murray Bay.

My Dear Sir Sandford Fleming,—Since I saw you in Quebec I have intended writing to you about your project for a tower at Halifax to commemorate the first Canadian representative body. I was much interested in your plan. It certainly is something to be proud of that Nova Scotia should have had the first-elected legislature not only within what is now Canada, but, I believe, within any part of the present British Empire outside of the West Indies. I hope the people, and especially the Legislature of Nova Scotia, will not be found wanting in the desire to commemorate in a permanent form the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of so momentous and interesting an event. It gives Nova Scotia the pioneer place in our present constitutional system. I am quite sure that if we of the Province of Ontario could claim this pioneer place, we should wish to commemorate it in such a way that present and future generations should not forget so proud an event in our history For a century and a half Nova Scotia has played a notable, and I will add a noble, part in our political and educational history. Now let this monument be raised, "lest we forget."

I wish you all success in your plan, and I, with, I am sure, many other citizens of the Province of Ontario, will be glad to contribute to so excellent a plan for marking an epoch in our national life.

Believe me, dear Sir Sandford,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEORGE M. WRONG.

Sir Sandford Fleming, etc., etc.

Ottawa, July 1, 1908.

J. A. Chisholm, Esq., K. C.,
Secretary 150th Anniversary Committee.

Dear Sir,—Allow me to submit some explanations to you as secretary of the committee charged with the duty of celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the First Representative Assembly in Nova Scotia, with the request that you will bring the subjects alluded to, to the attention of your committee.

The present communication is the outcome of a letter which I ventured to address His Worship the Mayor of Halifax as follows:

Halifax, June 26th, 1908.

His Worship Mayor Crosby:

Dear Sir,—Allow me to express my cordial thanks to yourself and the members of the City Council, who were good enough to visit my property on the North West Arm yesterday in connection with the proposal made respecting the erection of a tower in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first establishment of representative government in Nova Scotia.

As an old resident of Nova Scotia, and a taxpayer in Halifax for nearly half a century, I feel deeply interested in the proposal. My reasons for such I have already communicated to Your Worship, and they are made known in a general way to the public through the press.

Those who think as I do, are of the opinion that the present year should not be allowed to pass without taking steps to erect an ornamental edifice, Imperial in its character, which would embody all the great historical associations of Nova Scotia from the first assembly of representatives of the people at Halifax in 1758.

There can be no time so opportune as the present for moving in the matter. Last year would have been too soon, and next year will be twelve months too late. No place could be more fitting for the erection of a commemorative monument than in the city where

the first Assembly in the outer Empire, as it at present stands, was held. The structure itself should be of such a character as to increase the attractions of the extreme beauty of its situation, and add to the many interests of Halifax, with its ocean trade and its magnificent commercial greatness of the future.

Prosperous sons of Nova Scotia are to be found in the United Kingdom, in many parts of the Dominion, in Australia and New Zealand, in the Indies, South Africa, the United States, and elsewhere. Many of them retain a lively interest in the province they hail from, and I cannot doubt that they would rejoice to have an opportunity of contributing to such a purpose as is now proposed. I feel quite satisfied that through this means a considerable portion of the cost of the monument could easily be raised. For various reasons, however, it appears to devolve upon the City of Halifax to take the initiative, and on that account I am glad to know that Your Worship has called a meeting of the Council to consider the proposal.

For myself, I would merely say that circumstances have placed in my possession an ideal site for the proposed monument, with land adjacent thereto which may be used for a public park. As an earnest of my sincerity, I offer both to the city free of cost. I will only add that I shall feel rewarded by the acceptance of the gift, and should any member of the Council desire information on any point (or any modification of the proposal), I shall esteem it a favour if the council will appoint a committee with whom I may confer. I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING.

The City Council met the same evening, June 26th, when the above letter was read. After discussion, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"Whereas, Sir Sandford Fleming, K. C. M. G., has most generously offered to present to the City of

Halifax a portion of his property known as the Dingle on the western side of the North West Arm, and has coupled with such offer an expression of his desire that the city should erect a monumental tower on a part of the lands so presented, commemorative of the establishment of representative institutions in the Province of Nova Scotia, and of the growth of the Empire;

"And whereas, the City of Halifax, while desiring to express its warmest appreciation of the great generosity of Sir Sandford in making this offer, and its thorough sympathy with the aims and wishes of Sir Sandford in desiring to commemorate the events referred to, does not wish, without further consideration, to commit itself to the very considerable expense necessarily involved in the construction of such a monument;

"And whereas, the events of which such monument would be commemorative are rather of a provincial and national character than peculiar to the city as such;

"And whereas, the city is already under a considerable expense in the maintenance of its Public Gardens, Point Pleasant Park and other public parks;

"And whereas, it may be possible that the aims and wishes of Sir Sandford in the erection of such a monument may be equally, if not better attained in some other way;

"Therefore resolved, That this council appoint a committee to confer with Sir Sandford Fleming respecting the proposed gift, and to report to the Council the conditions and terms of Sir Sandford's proposed gift and a detailed statement of what the cost would be to the city of accepting the same, together with their recommendations thereof."

The Council then appointed a committee consisting of Aldermen Hoben, Bligh, MacKenzie, Whitman, Campbell and Smith, which committee I had the honor to meet in conference on Saturday, June 27th. Each of the gentlemen present was good enough to

give expression to his views in a frank and courteous manner, all of them having special regard to the financial interests of the city. No definite decision was reached beyond consenting to the suggestion that I should bring the matter to the attention of your committee, and with that object in view, I now address you.

When I visited Halifax recently, I felt it to be my first duty to call upon His Worship the Mayor. Upon stating the purpose of my visit, His Worship was good enough to invite a few leading citizens of Halifax to a meeting in the Mayor's office in the City Hall on June 23rd. His Honour D. C. Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor, honorary chairman of your committee, was one of the number. On that occasion I was given an opportunity of submitting the views I hold as to the desirability of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the First Assembly of representatives of the people in Nova Scotia, in the year 1758, and the significance of that Assembly as a step of the very highest importance in the development of the great British Empire. During my visit to Halifax I had the advantage of gaining access to the original records, and I found that from 1758 onwards, the General Assemblies, as they were termed, met regularly year by year. They met not always in the same months of the year, but sometimes they met twice a year. For example, between 1758 and 1800 there were eight general elections and forty-nine meetings of the Assembly, and the meetings averaged 56 days a year. Thus the germs and principles of responsible government, which had slowly been developing in the Mother Country, were transplanted to this side of the Atlantic, and here obtained a vigorous growth. Nova Scotia has indeed been the pioneer of popular government in the outer Empire, and it seems in the highest degree fitting that we should celebrate in a becoming manner what may be regarded as the laying of the foundation stone of the new Empire of Peace.

In the annals of the human race from the earliest

days until a comparatively recent period, there are few traces of friendly intercourse between the nations of the world. The evidence of history goes to show that when nation met nation it was generally in conflict; that to subdue by force of arms was the primary aim of all past empires, and that the conquests thus gained were held in subjection with an iron grasp.

A great change has been effected in the case of the British Empire, and we must recognize the beginning of the change when the King's ministers in London, 150 years ago, gave evidence of the spirit of justice and wisdom, in granting a measure of self-government to the people of Nova Scotia. With this act of enfranchisement, a new order of things in colonial administration commenced, which only required time to make more perfect. The same principles of self-government have now been extended to all or nearly all the more important oversea provinces under the British flag.

For the present we must except India, but it cannot be doubted that the same spirit of justice and foresight will be extended to India, so soon as the Indian people are ready for self-government. While the Asiatic problem may take long to solve, meanwhile the seed first sown in Nova Scotia from the parent tree, will continue to fructify in all the transmarine British dominions north and south of the equator; and thus blessed with free institutions, the sisterhood of nations with common interests and common sympathies, may in friendship and peace co-operate in advancing the higher ends of civilization.

At the meeting called by the Mayor on the 23rd of June, two letters were read setting forth my views as to the best manner of commemorating the events of 150 years back. I am sure it cannot be said that I take too exalted a view of the importance of that memorable occasion. The fact that your committee has been appointed by the citizens of Halifax to see that the semi-tercentenary of such a rare and note-

worthy historical event shall be celebrated in a becoming manner, places its importance beyond any doubt, and I therefore venture to address your committee with the knowledge and approval of a committee of the City Council.

I am afraid I have been unable during my short visit to Halifax to satisfy the City Council that the initiative in erecting a fitting monument should be taken by that body. This may be owing to the fact that two subjects have been considered together, and possibly some confusion of thought may have resulted: (1) The commemoration of the historical event which occurred on October 2nd, 1758. (2) The establishment of a Public Park on the western shore of the North West Arm. With respect to the first, in my letter to the late Mayor of date May 4th, I alluded to it in these words:

"I have reference to the fact that the present year is the semi-tercentenary of the establishment of popular government in this province, and that the first house of representatives of the people, who were elected under instructions from His Majesty the King, assembled in Halifax on October 2nd, 1758. Arrangements having been made by Governor Lawrence, representing the King, the previous May—this very month 150 years ago.

"The fact alluded to is of great significance, and it has an intimate relationship to the development of the Empire. To-day representative government, essentially an outgrowth of the love of justice and liberty inherited from the races forming the British people, reached its present stage through centuries of conflict dating back to the conquest of 1066. The spirit of representative government is inherited from England, and it is worthy of note that the first legislative assembly in the Dominion—the first in the present Empire outside of England, was assembled under instructions from the British King, in Nova Scotia in 1758. After the lapse of a century and a half, when representative government is becoming co-extensive

with civilization, is it not fitting that Nova Scotians should in some marked manner denote an historical fact in which they are so much interested and directly associated?"

Again in my letter to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, of June 8th, I alluded to the subject as follows:

"A few days ago I received a copy of the proceedings of the legislative council of Nova Scotia for 1908, and with very great satisfaction I have read the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Armstrong and other gentlemen, reported on pages 18 to 22, and 40 to 52. It is gratifying to find set forth in much detail, the important historical fact that parliamentary government was instituted in Nova Scotia a century and a half ago, that it has been continued up to the present time, and that we have now almost reached the 150th anniversary of the first meeting of the legislature in the city of Halifax.

"The speakers in the legislative council to whom I have referred, pointed out that in 1758, under instructions from His Majesty's ministers in England, elected representatives of the early settlers met for the first time, that the Nova Scotia legislative assembly was then, and is now, the first example of representative government within the limits of the half continent which is now known as the Dominion of Canada; that when the legislature met in the capital of Nova Scotia in 1758, the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, with much more territory in North America, were subject to military rule under the King of France; that the legislative assembly was opened in Nova Scotia long before New Zealand and Australia were first settled by Englishmen or even seen by British seamen; that the event occurred nearly half a century before the British had any possessions in South Africa, a whole century before British Columbia became a British colony, and eighteen years before the United States of America had come into existence.

"The event to which special reference is made as having occurred in 1758, appears to have been the beginning of a new order of things in colonial administration. At this date we must recognize what it signified, that it was actually the first step in the enfranchisement of the people in the oversea possessions of England, and that it may indeed be regarded in its essential principle as the foundation stone upon which has been steadily developing and is to-day being firmly built up in both hemispheres—the British Empire of the centuries to come.

"Nova Scotians may rightly claim the 150th anniversary of such an event as an occasion of which they may well be proud, and all must be agreed that it should be celebrated in some becoming manner. It has, among other things, been suggested that an imposing monumental edifice be erected on some conspicuous spot to commemorate such an important historical event. It is felt that such a memorial would, in some degree, be a recognition by the people of the capital city and of Nova Scotia, of the importance of the event dwelt upon by members of the legislative council—a recognition which, in the permanent form proposed, would impress itself on every visitor to this part of the Dominion in all future years."

As to the precise form that a permanent memorial should take naturally there may be various opinions. After a good deal of thought, I ventured to express the views I had arrived at, for what they were worth, at the meeting called by the Mayor on June 23rd:

"The monumental edifice contemplated should in some marked manner indicate the purpose of its erection. It should commend itself by the extreme simplicity, massiveness, and grandeur of its general outline; at the same time every course of masonry should have its distinct meaning. The whole structure might most fittingly, I think, take the general form of an Italian tower, probably 25 feet square and 100 or more feet in height. The foundation course would testify to the beginning of representative

government in the outer empire on that occasion, when the doors of a legislative assembly were opened in this city by request of the home authorities in the first week of October, in 1758, to receive the elected representatives of the early settlers of Nova Scotia. That occasion was one of the most important events that ever occurred in Canada in respect to its bearing on the whole future of the Empire. The exact date is almost identical with another event which occurred in another part of the world. The Nova Scotia representatives had scarcely left their homes to pursue their journey through the woods to Halifax, to meet in assembly for the first time, when a child was born in a country parish in England; a child who lived to make his mark as a naval officer as no other has done since the world began. That child received the name of Horatio Nelson, and at his death nearly 50 years afterwards, no man could have done more to place our Empire on a broad and lasting basis than the great admiral. Trafalgar cleared the European atmosphere, and opened the way to render our colonial empire possible. Up to the date of that glorious victory as indicated on the proposed tower, the structure might be characterized by the greatest simplicity and solidity.

"In the same year when Nelson passed to his reward a great man—one of the greatest which Canada ever produced—was born in a little cottage on the shores of the North West Arm. The upper half of the tower would be enriched by a reference to the grateful services to his country of Joseph Howe, a man who has done so much to render his name immortal in the hearts of his countrymen. That famous Nova Scotian has provided abundant opportunities for the architectural adornment of the tower.

"There are many other distinguished names which would find places of honour at various stages, —that of the Hon. J. W. Johnstone would especially be one of them. The efforts of this statesman were greatly valued in the complete development, about the year 1840, of responsible government, the only basis

of colonial government upon which the empire of the future can be built up.

"As all the world knows, Nova Scotia did a large part in the first establishment of steam communication between Great Britain and North America, chiefly through the enterprise and foresight of a Halifax merchant, Sir Samuel Cunard.

"The first steamship to cross the Atlantic wholly under steam sailed from Pictou, Nova Scotia, August 1833.

"Nova Scotia has done much to advance submarine telegraphy. It is now fifty years since the first Atlantic cable was laid.

"The Prince of Wales, now King Edward, arrived in Halifax in 1860.

"The confederation of the provinces of the Dominion was effected in 1867, of which one of the most powerful advocates was that distinguished and remarkable Nova Scotian, Sir Charles Tupper.

"These events and much more of high interest may fittingly be denoted. There would be half a dozen o. more galleries in the tower, and places would be found to record the names and good deeds of all who had specially served their country.

"A striking feature of the general appearance of the edifice would be the modest massiveness of its base in contrast with the more elevated portions, which would gradually increase in architectural beauty until crowned by the finale.

"In this manner it will be seen that the purpose of the design is to raise a mural symbolic memorial of great events which have occurred at all stages of the history of Nova Scotia; the whole combining the spirit of colonial liberty with imperial stability."

With respect to the establishment of a Park on the western shores of the North West Arm, there were some overtures made to me on behalf of the city authorities some time ago respecting it. I cannot but regard it as a desirable object, and in a locality which attracts by its natural beauty so many hundreds, I may say thousands of citizens and generally all

visitors, a Public Park could not fail to be greatly appreciated. In my letter to the Lieutenant-Governor of June 8th, to which I have referred, I made a definite offer of land for a park as a contribution to, and in connection with, the celebration of the 150th anniversary herein referred to. The following is an extract:

"I now formally offer the finest site on the whole of my property on the North West Arm for the erection of such a commemorative edifice, along with 70 or 80 acres of land, for the purpose of a park, for the use and enjoyment of the public forever."

Subsequently I added to my contribution the right of way for a carriage road and electric railway, the latter to connect the city electric railway system, by way of the head of the Arm, with the proposed Park and also with the eastern side of the Dingle property at the Arm village.

Much as I would wish to see a Park established on the western shores of the North West Arm, and freely as I would part with my property for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Halifax, I frankly confess that I do not attach the same importance to the formation of a Public Park as I do to the proper commemoration of the 150th anniversary of an event which, by association, brings Nova Scotians into close and honourable relationship, not simply with the Mother Country, but also with every member of the great family of daughter states. Nova Scotia proudly becomes the elder sister in the wide-spread family, and it is universally conceded that the daughter states of the British Empire are among the splendid achievements in nation building of the world.

The resolution passed by the City Council on June 26th, suggests that the events which the proposed monument would commemorate are rather of a provincial and national character than peculiar to the city as such, and that it may be possible that the object of such a monument may be equally, if not better attained in some other way.

The views thus expressed and assented to, lead me to think that if your committee could see their way to appeal to Nova Scotians as suggested in my letter to the Mayor of June 26th, a considerable portion of the funds required could be raised by private contributions. Then, too, the provincial and perhaps the federal government may each be found willing to aid in the movement. Meanwhile, as pointed out in the letter last referred to, the present year should not be allowed to pass without decisive action being taken.

The action which I would venture to advise is, on some convenient day during the present season, to lay the foundation stone of the proposed, or some other memorial edifice which may be preferred. My offer to furnish the site with 70 or 80 acres of land for a Park will continue to hold good, and as I explained to the committee of the City Council, it would be open for me to considerably augment the gift which I have already proposed to make.

I may state for the information of your committee that Mr. Doane, the city engineer, has been good enough to look into the matter of cost, and has estimated that the full expenditure on the proposed edifice need not exceed $15,000. If arrangements be at once made to lay the foundation stone during the present season, the completion of the whole building could be effected when funds became available, and the city authorities placed on a financial position to proceed with the work.

By such means I feel well assured that Halifax would secure in addition to a Public Park on the North West Arm, a mural memorial of the bygone life of Nova Scotia; a historical monument which would be hailed with a sense of pride by this young Canadian nation, and regarded with feelings of genuine satisfaction by the Mother Country and the whole sisterhood of British nations.

Yours very truly,

SANDFORD FLEMING.